lending for non-humanitarian purposes to India by International Financial Institutions; defence-related sales as well as military financing under the Arms Export Control Act; export of items on the US Munition List; export of dual use items and technology; and, tighter export controls on the remaining organisations *on* the so-called Entities List.

(d) Government uses every opportunity to convey to the US Government that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted.

Failure of foreign policy on Sri Lanka

l312. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to observe a clear policy about Sri Lanka;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have to face the pressure in taking the decision of clear policy about Sri Lanka under the pressure of some of its alliance parties in Government; and

(c) whether some other countries would not get a chance to intervene in Sri Lanka due to the present policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government's policy has been formulated in the national interest after very careful consideration of all the factors involved.

Passport offices in Orissa and Rajasthan

1313. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport offices located in Rajasthan and Orissa as at present and the number of new offices proposed to be opened (State-wise) during 2000-2001;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what is the average number of applications received (State-wise) for this purpose and disposed of each month during the last six months particularly in Jaipur and Bhubaneshwar;

(c) whether any new technology is available in India for preparation of passports quickly so that applicants are not required to wait for more than two days *in* future; and

(d) what is the present backlog of applications as a whole in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) One Passport Office each is located in Rajasthan (Jaipur) and Orissa (Bhubaneshwar). No new passport office is proposed to be opened in either of these two States during 2000-2001.

(b) Average number of applications received in Jaipur during the last six months is 6112 per month and the average number of passports issued during the same period is 4586 per month.

Average number of applications received in Bhubaneshwar during the last six months is 1276 per month and the average number of passports issued during the same period is 1156 per month.

(c) The machine writing of passports has been started at Regional Passport Office, Delhi, as a pilot project and after the technology is successfully tested, the machine writing of passports would be introduced at other computerised Passport Offices in a phased manner. The procedure for issue of a passport remains the same except that instead of the manual writing of the passport booklet, it will be machine written. The police verification report is a prerequisite for the issue of a passport and this normally takes at least 4 weeks. Hence, the overall time for issue of a passport would remain unchanged at 35 days.

(d) Present backlog of applications in Rajasthan and Orissa where documents are complete and police report has been received is as follows:

Jaipur (Rajasthan)	2711
Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)	1998